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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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DK 02-277

ORIGINAL

Written Ex parte

137 Documents

To: Chairman
Commissioner's

Orisina

02-277

From: withersp@usc.edu
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 9:20 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in the development of children.

The relaxation of media ownership rules will result in significantly less original programming for children. Relaxation also will reduce competition, potentially stifling innovation and increasing commercialism in children's programming.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Wendy Witherspoon
7641 Norton Avenue
West Hollywood, California 90046

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Henry Waxman

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FEB 03 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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071

From: slamz@socal.rr.com
To: KathleenAbernathy
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 10:11 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

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Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Susan Mayer-Zeitlin
17353 Martha St
Encino, California 91316

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Brad Sherman

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: sandersc@nbps.org
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2003 8:11 AM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in the development of children.

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Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

colleen sanders
7600 Lyons Road
Coconut Creek, Florida 33066

cc:
Senator Bob Graham
Representative Clay Shaw
Senator Bill Nelson

From: jimtroesh@aol.com
To: KathleenAbernathy
Date: Tue, Jan 28,2003 11:31 AM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in the development of children.

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Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Jim Troesh
5225 Blakeslee #222
North Hollywood, California 91601

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Howard Berman

From: kevinpwill@juno.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 8:31 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

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The relaxation of media ownership rules will result in significantly less original programming for children. Relaxation also will reduce competition, potentially stifling innovation and increasing commercialism in children's programming.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

I also am extremely concerned about how deregulation will affect what information or misinformation will be released to the American people. Our democracy depends upon educated voters. Deregulation will allow powerful interests to select the information that best suits themselves. That is not in the country's best interest.

Do not deregulate.

Sincerely,

Kevin Will
1340 N. McCadden Place #1
Los Angeles, California 90028

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Diane Watson

From: Adam Hand
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 8:51 PM
Subject: FCC don't allow media monopolies

Dear Commissioner:

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media: fast pa ally free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies.

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Adam D. Hand
6 Avon Court
Smithfield, NC 27577

Get Your Private, Free Email at <http://www.hotmail.com>

From: Erikdavis313@aol.com
To: KathleenAbernathy
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 8:55 PM
Subject: Stop media consolidation, do not deregulate

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

If the FCC allows deregulation to occur, this would not only destroy Freedom of the Press, it would the citizens of America's ownership of the airways away! Media giants like Fox, NBC, ABC/Disney/Aol/Time-Warner, CBS to effectively own the airways of the United States, and to pound the view-points, right wing political views, crappy TV shows into our homes and minds. This is not healthy for America nor is it in line of the Constitution of the United States. This would mean that the US Media would not fit the Capitalistic Ideal anymore because it would be the tightest and most exclusive oligopoly known!

Our media (Radio, TV, Magazines, Newspapers, and Internet Service Providers) are already a short list of conglomerates. Currently there are only three major radio conglomerates (Infiniti, Bonneville, and Clear Channel) who own the majority of these stations. They have very limited programming, and already kill the creativity of the American People. This makes money and fads more important than our ability to create. This would make us the most narrow-minded, short-sighted nation on earth, doomed to die if we deregulated further. Do not let us be in the History books on a parallel with the Roman Empire. We need media diversity, and limited ownership rights!!!!

Erik Davis

Sincerely,

Erik Davis
1236 Wesley Ave
Evanston, Illinois 60202

cc:
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Peter Fitzgerald
Representative Jan Schakowsky

From: r.dasche
To: Mike Powell
Date: 1/23/03 7:04 AM
Subject: New understanding of Federal Communications Commission

Dear Michael Powell:

Only recently have I begun paying attention to the workings of the FCC, enough to realize how vast is its power, how wide-ranging is its reach, how intimately it is connected to my daily life through my phone, my TV and my FM radio.

I regret that I am so late in acquiring this understanding, even though I take citizenship very seriously.

Since the means of my enlightenment, Public Radio and Internet, is under your control, you can expect to begin hearing from me on several matters over which I feel mounting concern.

The most compelling of my concerns is the concentration of media through repeated business mergers, so that it becomes increasingly difficult for me to avoid adding to the coffers of Rupert Murdoch, for one. The outrage I feel is unbounded when, almost no matter where I turn for a connection to sources of information, there ahead of me, raking in my precious dollars, is a man whose values I abhor and resist with all my might, to little avail. This is **WRONG**. A single corporate entity should **NOT** have ownership of so **MANY** media outlets all in my area concurrently!

My only resort is to Public TV and Public Radio, and, since their funds have been cut so drastically over the years, I even must suspect and beware corporate influence in that sacrosanct area!

These are the airwaves that I, as a citizen, **OWN**, and that; Murdoch, as a Corporation, is **GIVEN** access to, virtually free! Infuriating, Sir! Especially in these troubled times, when our democracy is increasingly at stake, making it essential that we citizens have access to as broad a range of opinion as possible, rather than an ever narrower spectrum, and **THAT** narrow spectrum controlled by someone with as few scruples and as intense a desire for power as Murdoch.

I do not want there to be any further deregulation. In fact, there needs to **be** **MORE** regulation, not **less**! Your job is to protect the interests of **ALL** citizens, not only those who own corporations. I am greatly appreciative of the views expressed by Commissioner Michael Copps at a forum held at Columbia Law School recently, heard via Pacifica Radio on KPFK at 90.7 FM.

Ruth Dasche
1280 Oakmont Rd.
Seal Beach, CA
562-430-4044
r.dasche@earthlink.net

Ruth

CC: speakout@presstelegram.com, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein, KM KJMWEB, mail@democracynow.org

From: Adam Hand
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 8:51 PM
Subject: FCC don't allow media monopolies

Dear Commissioner Powell:

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media at least partially free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies.

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner Powell, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Adam D. Hand
6 Avon Court
Smithfield, NC 27577

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From: Avery McCombs
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 7:02 PM
Subject: FCC Deregulations!?

Dear M. Powell,

I am a very concerned citizen of the USA because I fear that the democracy and freedom the colonists fought for is being eroded by unrestricted capitalism.

We have government for a reason and that is to represent the people and allow them to participate in the evolution of our society. As a government agency, it is the duty of the FCC to protect the people's right to easily accessible, accurate, and complete information.

Allowing one company to own all the most prevalent information sources is irresponsible abuse of the public trust.

Please do not allow this deregulation to take place and plunge us into an even more Orwellian world.

Our integrity now is the only hope for tomorrow.

Sincerely,
-Avery McCombs

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail Plus - Powerful. Affordable. Sign up now
<http://mailplus.yahoo.com>

From: Barbara Jones
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2003 10:13 AM
Subject: FCC filings for rule changes

1/16/2003

To Those Who Should be Concerned:

As I sit and listen to the panel discussions at Columbia University today, focusing on the debate over new FCC filings proposed to change the rules regarding ownership of outlets and market saturation, I am compelled to compose this letter. I need not repeat the obvious exclusion of this crucial topic from the "main-stream media." The reasons fall directly on the shoulders of the issue itself.

During this time of escalating divisions in wealth and privilege in this country, it is beyond important that those of us in the majority, who fall under the proverbial wire of extreme wealth, are given ready access to a variety of information sources in order to acquire an educated, well informed platform from which we will exercise our right to vote and speak freely.

The new proposals for change in regulations at the FCC show a clear example of the skewed focus our federal governors have on profit and consumerism. A general "don't worry yer pretty little head over it, dear" attitude toward their electorate should be a clear signal that they're not taking our best interest at heart.

The FCC mission began as a regulatory body designed to protect the public airwaves and to ensure that very sacred, if troublesome, freedom of speech.

As a citizen who daily accesses an excessive, by national standards, array of media outlets (a city daily, NY Times, network national and local TV news, radio versions of BBC World, among others - no cable or satellite), I know that to get a different or in-depth story today is a daunting task. Because I have an interest, I get the information I seek and then find myself answering simple questions for bright, well-educated people regularly.

If the new FCC filings are carried forward as planned, the resultant homogenization of information will serve to go far in enriching those whose special interests they seem to have been created to enhance. It will have deleterious effects on the interest the public has in the workings of their own world and as a result will prove to harm the general political health of this country, which it can ill afford.

I would be greatly heartened if these filings are given the proper light of day that any new government regulation/policy, etc. deserves. I cannot help but feel that if the person on the street was made aware of the impending changes, they would have an opinion from their own experience on the subject.

The ideal of the free market assumes a moral responsibility. Sadly there is scant evidence that this responsibility is applied at all beyond the confines of the boardroom. As the media giants of today exemplify by their

programming choices (radio & TV) and editorial content in newspapers, the greater good of the public takes a backseat to the interests of those giants' stockholders. The abandonment of the major networks international bureaus was a fiscal choice that became a necessity when the news producers lost their traditional funding from their networks and became dependent on advertising revenues. Because the viewing public was perceived to be less interested in world affairs at that time, the networks systematically closed their international bureaus, a huge money drain, to save money. If initially the public was uninterested in the workings of the world beyond our borders, they have since been completely weaned of the desire by deprivation.

When we woke up one day only to be startled at the ferocity of the hatred felt toward us across much of the world and reached out to find some answers, they came in polished packages, neatly categorized and shallow in content. For many of us, this has become enough - not because it is all we wanted, but because it was all we could easily get. When you are deprived of nutrition your stomach shrinks. Evidently this is also true of curiosity.

The fewer owners of these media giants there are and the greater their dominion over their markets, top to bottom, even these easily digestible packages we get will dwindle in number. Already it is possible to read, hear and see identical stories several times a day from what looks like different sources. I fear a time when there is no interest at all because there is no variety at all.

To sum up: I think this de-regulation is a bad idea that is contradictory to the responsibility that the FCC should have uppermost as its mission. Keep the public airwaves public.

Thank you for your time.

Barbara Jones
5016 Glenmont
Houston, TX 77081

713-660-6676
Baloneyjones@worldnet.att.net

CC: viewpoints@chron.com

From: Beverly Tetreault
To: Beverly Tetreault
Date: Mon. Jan 27, 2003 8:14 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Kennedy

Message text follows:

Beverly Tetreault
292 Elm St. West
Raynham. MA 02767

January 27, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Every time something is deregulated it gets worse.

Sincerely,

Beverly J. Tetreault

From: Billie Moore
To: Billie Moore
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 9:21 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Hutchison
Representative Bonilla
Message text follows:

Billie Moore
pOB 524
sanderson, TX 79848

January 27, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. **As** a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Billie Moore

From: Billie Moore
To: Billie Moore
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 9:21 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Cornyn

Message text follows:

Billie Moore
pOB 524
sanderson. TX 79848

January 27, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

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Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Billie Moore

From: Bobby Christian
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2003 5:31 PM
Subject: Ownership of the Media

I wish to strongly protest the FCC considering to loosening media ownership standards and allow a handful of people to own all the media outlets! And please don't use the lame excuse that because of the internet, it is ok to let all our media outlets be gobbled up by a handful of people with questionable motives.

Our media is owned and operated by too few people already. The media is, even now, biased and untrustworthy because of the media monopoly that already exists in this nation. We need to break up the media monopoly, not make the monopoly stronger by loosening media ownership standards and allowing people like Mr. Murdock to buy up even more of the media. There should be much tighter restrictions on how many of the media outlets can be owned by one person or one company, not looser restrictions! The FCC must foster a diverse ownership of the media by many many citizens of the USA. Having the media owned by hundreds of different people will help stop the untrustworthy, propaganda spouting, biased, media that we have at the present time. In many ways, our media system is even worse than what the Soviet Union had during the Communist days. Our Media is a national disgrace already, letting the media **be** owned by even fewer people **is** unconscionable. Thank you.

Bob Christian
RR1, Box 33A
Maitland, MO. **64466**

From: carol wolman
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Jan 22.2003 9:23 PM
Subject: please don't relax ownership of media rules

Dear Mr. Powell,
Media diversity should be a top priority for the FCC. Media concentration cripples democracy. I urge the FCC to preserve-- and refrain from weakening --the rule prohibiting cross ownership of newspapers and television stations in the same market.
Carol S. Wolman, MD

From: caskel stallard
To: caskel stallard
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 1:51 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Brownback
Senator Roberts
Representative Tiahrt
Message text follows:

caskel stallard
2901 river park drive
wichita, KS 67203

January 27, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies arent required to allow competitors access to the market. Im also concerned about the Commissions move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

caskel stallard

From: CharlieChimp1@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 9:30 AM
Subject: Ownership of US media already distorts news

Oxford,
England

27th January, 2003 01993 775080

Dear Mr. Powell,

I understand that your commission is inviting comments on proposals to abandon some controls on the ownership of **US** media outlets. US media is already widely regarded throughout the world as prejudiced and unreliable, paying inadequate attention to News Reporting and to much attention to the political interests of proprietors. There was a time when US led the world in fearless reporting. Now people have to turn to alternate sources overseas if they want to be properly informed on matters such as Palestine and Iraq.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Leadbeater

From: Dale Landis
To: Dale Landis
Date: Mon, Jan 27, 2003 9:26 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Kohl
Senator Feingold
Representative Sensenbrenner
Message text follows:

Dale Landis
1217 N. 9th Ave.
West Bend, WI 53090

January 27, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Dale and Barbara Landis

From: em@bork.hampshire.edu
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sun, Jan 26, 2003 1:58 PM
Subject: Public comment period

Mr. Powell:

I am writing to you to express my gravest concerns as a **U.S.** citizen under the current free-market economy. I was recently made aware of the FCC's plan to repeal restrictions on ownership of television and radio stations. I am directly opposed to this maneuver and I strongly encourage you, as chairman of the FCC, to reconsider.

Allowing media giants to merge even further and own unlimited numbers of TV and radio stations across the nation would **allow** for complete control of the media presented to the American people. This would allow for selective, biased broadcasting, as well as

From: em@bork.hampshire.edu
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sun, Jan 26, 2003 2:15 PM
Subject: Public commentary

Mr. Powell:

I am writing to you to express my gravest concerns as a U.S. citizen regarding the FCC's plan to repeal anti-consolidation laws in the media industry. I am strongly opposed to these changes, as they will impede the free market system. I urge you to reconsider, as Chair of the FCC.

Allowing media giants to merge and own unlimited amounts of television and radio stations without geographic restrictions will allow for complete control of the news that reaches the American people, as well as the advertising permitted on those stations.

This will allow for biases and restrictions that should not be allowed in a free market economy, and oligopoly will ensue. This does not allow equal opportunity, it allows for control by those who have the money and resources to compete on a very large scale. In addition, if any of these large media companies should go bankrupt in a situation similar to what we saw with Enron, the media network will be destroyed.

I urge you again to reconsider repealing media restrictions. I will have even less respect remaining for my government if this FCC plan is executed, and I think you should take that into consideration, as an individual in public service.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I wish you the best in serving the American people.

Sincerely,
Emily Hague

From: GORDON WALLIS
To: GORDON WALLIS
Date: Mon. Jan 27, 2003 2:42 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Lincoln

Senator Pryor

Representative Berry

Message text follows:

GORDON WALLIS
1202 SCENIC ACRES CIRCLE
HORSESHOE BEND, AR 72512

January 27, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. WALLIS